



Addie Powell skates away the winter blues at Riverside Skating Center.

Strategic Plan Update Underway

West Lafayette will ring in 2010 with an updated strategic plan, giving the city both goals and direction. First created via citizen input in 1984 and revised over the years, the plan covers everything from city services to quality of life.

"We're updating our 2004/2005 plan to give us a clean snapshot of where we're going, what we're trying to do here in the community," says Development Director Chandler Poole.

'What Do We Need to Change?'

"Running a city is like running a business, a business with a community of people involved," says West Lafayette resident Sana Booker, one of about a dozen steering committee members. "Like any business plan, you have to revisit it and ask, 'What do we need to change? What do we need to do?' We're smart to be doing this."

Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer, another resident committee member, agrees. "Cities change," she says. "We have a new administration with new ideas for the direction our city should go. We have new residents who bring ideas from other areas of the country. Including them will provide new energy and spark even more new thinking."

She welcomes all of that. "In the best case, the city will hold all new initiatives up and ask 'Is this idea a fit? Is it a priority? Is there funding for it?'"



Shelley

Lowenberg-DeBoer

Charlie Shook

Chandler Poole

Shaping 'Where We Want to Be'

"The city has many important and successful operating components staffed with capable professionals," says fellow committee

member Charlie Shook. "Without an integrated and fresh strategic plan, we run the risk of individual components operating autonomously and, perhaps, incongruently of one another."

And, Shook notes, "We all have the tendency to fall into ruts and not look beyond the immediate issue. A strategic plan allows us to look beyond the immediate and shape where we want to be further down the road."

Other steering committee members are Steve Belter, Mike Bennett, Tom Gall, David Kucik, Lynn Layden, Todd Leuck, Mia Lewis, Larry Oates, Art Remnet, Tom Robinson, Vinod Sagi, William Shen, Kumares Sinha, Linda Sorenson and Rachel Witt.

Public Input Will Be Key

"We tried to gather a diverse group of residents for the steering committee—different people than those who have been involved in earlier planning," says Mayor John Dennis. "We'll want citywide input before anything is finalized."

South Carolina-based urban planning firm Arnett Muldrow & Associates is facilitating the update. Public discussion meetings will be held in November and December; check www.westlafayette.in.gov for dates and times.

Clare Long makes patterns in Morton's mini math class.



James Osborne and Annie May enjoy adult ballet at Morton Community Center.



Head for Morton Community Center

Learning and fun are on tap all winter at Morton Community Center. Check out the lineup at www.westlafayette.in.gov.



Dynamic City Demands Your Involvement

by Mayor John Dennis

Creating and maintaining a community that is vibrant, sustainable and has a high quality-of-life takes work, as all West Lafayette residents know. It also takes study, discussion, involvement, consensus, and, often, time and money.

We are seeing positive results with our Neighborhood Resource Team. We are undertaking much-needed street improvements. We've passed a budget that takes into consideration challenging economic times.

We're also at work updating the city's strategic plan, evaluating stormwater system needs, studying the best way to cover the expense of trash collection, and considering options for a permanent home for our third fire station. We're addressing the future while maintaining the day-to-day operations of our city.

Balancing needs, wants, costs and passions is part of the formula, too. What are your goals for your city? Your concerns? Your willingness to help?

Your participation in the public process is critical to our success. I invite you to be active—in your neighborhood association, at public meetings, and in pitching in to make and keep West Lafayette the kind of community we all envision and appreciate.



News Bits

City Joins EPA Green Power Partnership. The Environmental Protection Agency recognized West Lafayette for producing green power at our wastewater treatment plant, where 6 percent of electricity used is generated onsite from renewable resources.

Wastewater Utility Online Billing, Payments. More than 300 have signed up for wastewater utility e-billing, saving the city more than 3,600 mailings a year. Sign up at www.westlafayette.in.gov, where you can also pay online.

New Way-finding Signs. By yearend, West Lafayette will have 15 new way-finding signs installed. "They will be sprinkled throughout the Village and up State Street," says Development Director Chandler Poole. "Their purpose is to help visitors move around our community and find the things we want them to see and the locations we want them to get to." Some of the places the signs will direct visitors to are Purdue University, the West Lafayette Library, Morton Center and City Hall.

Purdue Crew Boathouse Gets Underway. Purdue Crew's long-awaited new boathouse at 500 Brown Street near the West Lafayette Levee should be ready for spring occupancy. The \$1.7 million, 22,000-square-foot, two-story boathouse will have five boat bays, two workout areas, restrooms, a crew alumni area and public space.

Rhodes Now a Master Municipal Clerk. City Clerk-Treasurer Judy Rhodes attained the designation of Master Municipal Clerk by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the highest professional distinction it confers to practicing municipal clerks, both in the U.S. and internationally. Rhodes is one of only 14 Indiana clerks to have attained this.

CityBus Marks Designated Stops. CityBus is installing new signs throughout West Lafayette and other areas served that designate bus stops and list route information. The CityBus fleet now has 11 hybrid buses on its routes and more coming to its fleet of 70 buses.

Ivy Tech Students to Volunteer for City. Ivy Tech Community College is linking students with city service projects for learning and volunteer experiences. West Lafayette is now identifying opportunities for students to take on.

Neighborhood Associations. Get involved in your neighborhood association—a great way to meet your neighbors and keep your spot in the city vital. Association information at www.westlafayette.in.gov, or contact Chandler Poole, cpoole@westlafayette.in.gov, 775-5160.

New Advisory Panel to Offer Input on Stormwater Program

City Engineer Dave Buck and Utility Director Dave Henderson are heading up West Lafayette's newly formed Stormwater Technical Advisory Panel. The panel is gathering public input as the city proceeds with meeting Clean Water Act requirements and continuing stormwater program operations.

Regulatory requirements include managing stormwater, educating and involving the public, detecting and eliminating non-stormwater discharges to the stormwater

system, controlling construction-site erosion control and other items.

Panel members include about 45 community representatives from neighborhood associations, religious groups, business, industry, rental property owners and other areas.

With guidance from consulting firm DLZ Indiana, LLC, Indianapolis, the panel will help the city decide stormwater user fee assessments,

amounts and billing structure to accommodate increasing costs.

Stormwater activities are now funded by wastewater service fees. A stormwater user fee would dedicate revenue for the stormwater program, targeting stormwater system users who may not have wastewater sewer service. The city will use the fund to address stormwater needs, provide services and improve water quality in the Wabash River and other waterways.

Gerys Win Beautification Award

Vibrant colors in the yard of Mike and Carolyn Gery, 530 Robinson St., continue this fall with changing oak, maple and serviceberry leaves. The Gerys earned the September Beautification Award for their landscaping, a year-round showcase.

Of Note

Leaf Pickups. The Street Department picks up leaves that have been raked to the curb until December. Check the schedule at www.westlafayette.in.gov under Street and Sanitation, Brush and Yard Waste, or call 775-5242. Other times, they must be placed in rigid containers for pickup on scheduled yard waste days. Burning leaves is prohibited.

Building Permits. Recent single-family building permits: 8 in July totaling \$1,668,860; 8 in August, \$1,448,397; 4 in September, \$691,000. Total for 2009 through September 30: 50 permits, \$9,825,657.

Purdue Enrollment. Taking classes on Purdue's West Lafayette campus this fall: 39,607 students, down slightly from last fall's record 40,090.

Fire Prevention Week Educated Residents. West Lafayette Fire Stations hosted open houses October 10 and shared lessons under the theme, "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned."

Nearly 1,500 Learned to Swim. This summer's swimming lesson enrollment at the West Lafayette Municipal Pool totaled 1,446.

Recycle Cooking Oil in Free Containers. It's easy and free to recycle your used cooking oil, fats and grease. Stop by City Hall for a free collection bottle. When it's full, drop it off at West Lafayette Recycling Center, 705 S. River Road. It will be converted to electricity at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Neighborhood Resource Team at Work



Rick Walker

The new Neighborhood Resource Team, a police department division, has been busy. "Code enforcement seems to be well received," reports Supervisor Rick Walker. "Most people generally comply with requests."

He's established partnerships with local civic groups and organizations, such as Boiler Volunteer Network, Theta Tau Fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, Covenant Church, United Way and others.

Activity in August and September included: 407 code enforcement calls; four code tickets issued; 111 vehicle complaints; 24 abandoned vehicles towed; 4,968 parking tickets issued; 31 wheel locks placed; 53 animal complaint investigations; and six over-occupancy investigations. Contact the team 24/7 at 775-5200.



Mike and Carolyn Gery

Improving Your Travels

by David Buck, P.E., City Engineer

Despite rainy weather, the city is making great progress on several transportation projects:

Safe Routes to Schools: Solar-powered beacons, coordinated by web-based cell phones, and new crosswalks are in at Cumberland and Happy Hollow schools.

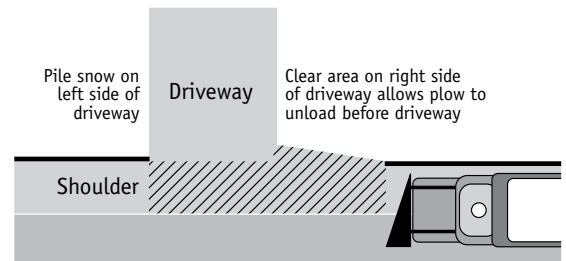


David Buck

Salisbury Street: Safety improvements are nearly complete; these include new curbs, ramps, drive aprons, sidewalks and reconstructed pavement from Riley to Rainbow. Plans are for Fairfield Contractors to wind up by Thanksgiving, ahead of schedule, despite a rainy spring and October.

Robinson Street: New curbs, ramps and sidewalks from Salisbury to DeHart are complete.

Cumberland Avenue: Utility and drainage work will begin soon; road construction begins in March and continues through October 2010. Because of the complexity of the project, some street closings must be made as we work. One that's likely is along Cumberland from U.S. 52 to the Salem Courthouse Apartments, probably in April, May and June. We will provide advance notice and appreciate your patience as we improve traffic flow and safety.



Help When Snow Falls

When it snows, West Lafayette street crews will first plow main streets, then side streets.

Residents are asked to:

- Move parked cars off the street during a snowfall so plows have room
- Clear snow from around your mailbox
- Shovel sidewalk snow into your yard within six hours after daylight or after snow has stopped falling
- Shovel driveway snow onto the left side of lawn as you face your driveway (see diagram).

Fall, Winter: Sampling of Events



Perk up your winter with indoor activities, such as dance, theatre or art classes at Morton Community Center, as Lige Merrill, pictured, does. Or head to the Riverside Skating Center for outdoor fun.

City Offices Closed

November 11, 26, 27
December 24, 25
January 1, 18

Strategic Plan Public Meetings

Check dates at www.westlafayette.in.gov

Merchant Holiday Open House

Friday and Saturday
November 13 and 14
Downtown Lafayette-West Lafayette,
Wabash Landing

Purdue Theatre

November 13 to 22, weekends
Hedda Gabler, Henrik Ibsen

Purdue Convocations

November 22
Strega Nona

Sagamore West Farmers Market

Wednesday, November 25, 3 to 6:30 p.m.
Cumberland Park

Riverside Skating Center

Friday, November 27, Opening Day
Saturday, December 19, 9 to 11 a.m.,
Skate with Santa
Season hours at www.westlafayette.in.gov,
743-7465

Dickens of a Christmas

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Downtown Lafayette-West Lafayette

Lafayette-West Lafayette Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 6
Departs 10th and Main 2 p.m., ends at
Tapawingo Park

Stewart Center Gallery, Purdue

January 11 to February 21
Dream Deferred

Riverside Skating Center opens for the season on Friday, November 27



COMMITTED TO GOING GREENER

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